

REMARKS

In the Office Action of October 4, 2003, claims 1, 2, 10 and 12 were rejected over Hasegawa et al., which disclosed a group of gaming machines that received and dispensed tokens. These machines are typically found in gaming casinos. They accept coins individually or in small groups and typically do not accept notes, as those are changed for coins at a central cashier.

The original claims 1 and 10 were seen, in view of the Office Action, to be too broad, and in view of this, claims 1 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice and a new independent claim 15 has been drafted and presented in the amendment.

Claim 15 is directed to a system that would be found in banks, financial institutions and retail establishments, and probably not in gaming, although in the future, it could be applied there as well.

Claim 15 provides a cash management system comprising a first cash handling device and a second cash handling device that communicate through a first wireless communication network operating according to a network standard for locally distributed wireless networks.

The machines are further defined as handling coins and notes, respectively. This is supported by paragraph [0023] of the specification and Fig. 1. This allows a division of labor which provides for smaller cheaper machines than some of the large cash handling machines of the prior art. It also distinguishes from ATM machines.

The other art cited in the Office action against claims 3,4, 5-7, 11, 13 and 14, such as Erekson, US Pat. No. 6,622,018, Richardson, U.S. Pat. No. 6,028,764, and Smarttrust, WO 00/56105, disclose the general availability of wireless networking systems, including remote displays, but does not suggest how to apply these systems to cash management in the financial industry. Traditionally, this cash settlement has been carried out with personal computers and

other stand-alone devices, some of which have not been networked.

Amended claim 2 and 16 add the feature of at least one of the cash handling machines having wireless I/O devices wherein the I/O devices communicate through the wireless network.

Claims 3 and 18 add the feature wherein this local cash management system may communicate to a second network selected from a group consisting of: the Internet, an intranet, a LAN and a WAN. Claim 4 adds the feature wherein the connection to this second network is wireless. This is supported by paragraph [0027] of the specification.

Claims 5 through 8 and 17 recite various preferred wireless protocols and claim 9 recites a further network topology.

Claim 19 recites the feature wherein the first cash handling machine will accept batches of notes of unsorted denominations and the second cash handling machine will accept batches of coins of unsorted denominations. This is typical of cash handling equipment and not typical of gaming customer-interface gaming machines of the type in Hasegawa.

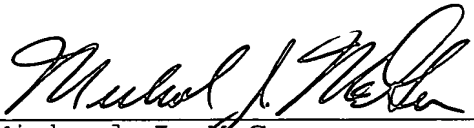
CONCLUSION

No fee is believed to be due, however if any fee is deemed to be due or to be credited, authorization is hereby given to use Deposit Acct. 17-0055.

In view of the Amendment and Remarks, reconsideration of the patent application is respectfully requested. After the amendment, claims 2-9 and 15-19 are now pending and a Notice of Allowance for these claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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